

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 AID-20 EB-11

OMB-01 RSR-01 IO-12 /162 W
----- 050714

R 121010 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4178

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0718

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: MALTA- LIBYA RELATIONS

1. VISITS TO TRIPOLI BY MALTESE PUBLIC FIGURES INDICATE THAT MINTOFF IS MAKING SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE WARMTH OF MALTA- LIBYAN RELATIONS TO MALTESE POPULATION.

2. LAST WEEK BRIGADIER SAMMUT- TAGLIAFERRO, COMMANDER MALTA LAND FORCE, VISITED TRIPOLI FOR SEVERAL DAYS. IN DISCUSSION WITH DATT FOLLOWING HIS RETURN, SAMMUT- TAGLIAFERRO WAS RETICENT IN DISCUSSING VISIT, BUT DID ADMIT THAT HE WAS ASKING LIBYANS FOR ASSISTANCE, PRESUMABLY MATERIEL AND POSSIBLY RELATED TO NEEDS OF PIONEER CORPS WHICH WILL BE CREATED.

3. COMMENT: SAMMUT- TAGLIAFERRO, WHO HAS BEEN OUTSPOKENLY ANTI- MINTOFF AND IS EVEN MORE OUTSPOKENLY PRO- BRITISH, UNDOUBTEDLY FOUND THIS EXPERIENCE SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE.

4. EVENING APRIL 12, CHIEF JUSTICE CREMONA INFORMED US THAT
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HE WILL BE VISITING TRIPOLI NEXT WEEK. AGAIN, HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD ORDERED HIM TO GO, BUT LACKING ANY SENSIBLE REASON FOR VISIT, SUCH IS OUR CONCLUSION. CREMONA WAS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY ABOUT TRIP. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE ASKED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING CONVERSATION, IF HE COULD GIVE HIM ASSURANCES THERE WOULD BE NO ISRAELI RAID ON TRIPOLI DURING HIS VISIT. HIS REQUEST WAS ONLY HALF IN JEST. ISRAELI REPLIED WITH A SMILE THAT HE COULD GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES FOR NEXT WEEK BUT NOT LATER.

5. ISRAELI ALSO SAID THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TWO DAYS AGO LATTER HAD LET DROP THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING MINTOFF ON VISIT TO TRIPOLI BEFORE LONG. HE WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE IN VISIT BEYOND ATMOSPHERICS. GETZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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